

SARTORIUS ISLANDS

Paul Vivian

Sartorius Islands is a group of works made in response to Stanislaw Lem's novel *Solaris*, and Andrey Tarkovsky's 1972 film adaptation. At the heart of both novel and film is the planet Solaris, whose enigmatic ocean draws upon the immense repertoire of human experience; and specifically the memories of the scientists, led by Sartorius, observing and attempting to communicate with what they believe is a sentient planet. Yet whilst they direct X-rays at the planet, Solaris itself is irradiating them: projecting phantom apparitions, or 'psi beings,' into their craft.

Vivian's works present both familiar and unknown objects: appropriated images and forms oscillate playfully between reality and the imagination as recognisable elements slip and entwine with unfamiliar structures. In this new body of work, created for exhibition at Art Gene, from intimate postcard collages to assemblage sculpture, Vivian continues to be fascinated in the way that Art can itself be a form of indeterminate communication - an anti-prose of human experience and our constant interaction with images and memory.

"We finished the experiment of beaming X-rays down to the Ocean's surface. Apparently the X-rays enabled the Ocean to explore all the little Islands of our memory" – Professor Snaut Solaris (film adaptation) – Tarkovsky, 1972

Born 1970, Paul Vivian is an Artist based in Southampton. He studied at *Chelsea College of Art and Design* and *Norwich School of Art and Design*. Recent exhibitions have included *The Tomorrow People*, 2014, *Elevator Gallery*, Hackney, London; *Dead Famous*, *HABA Gallery*, Southampton; *Doors in the Wall*, *Bearspace*, Deptford London and *The Wirksworth Festival*, Derbyshire and *The Tulca Festival*, Galway. He has recently spoken on the subject of Collage and its relationship to Trauma and Territory at conferences in Oxford, Prague and Berlin.

He is also Course Leader for Fine Art at the University for the Creative Arts.

14th March - 8th May

Art Gene, Bath St, Barrow-in-Furness
Mon - Thurs 9-5, Fri 9-4

with additional work at:

The Dock Museum, North Rd, Barrow-in-Furness
Wed - Sun 11-4

www.paulvivianstudio.com

www.art-gene.co.uk